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Publication date:
2012

Document version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Citation for published version (APA):
Bjerrum-Bohr, I. J., Thorsen, L., Christiansen, L. E., & Jespersen, L. (2012). *Tolerance of dairy-related Listeria monocytogenes strains to lactic acid stress*. Abstract from 23rd International ICFMH Symposium FoodMicro 2012, Istanbul, Turkey.

Student Poster Award

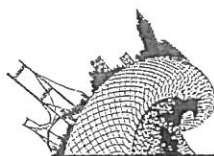
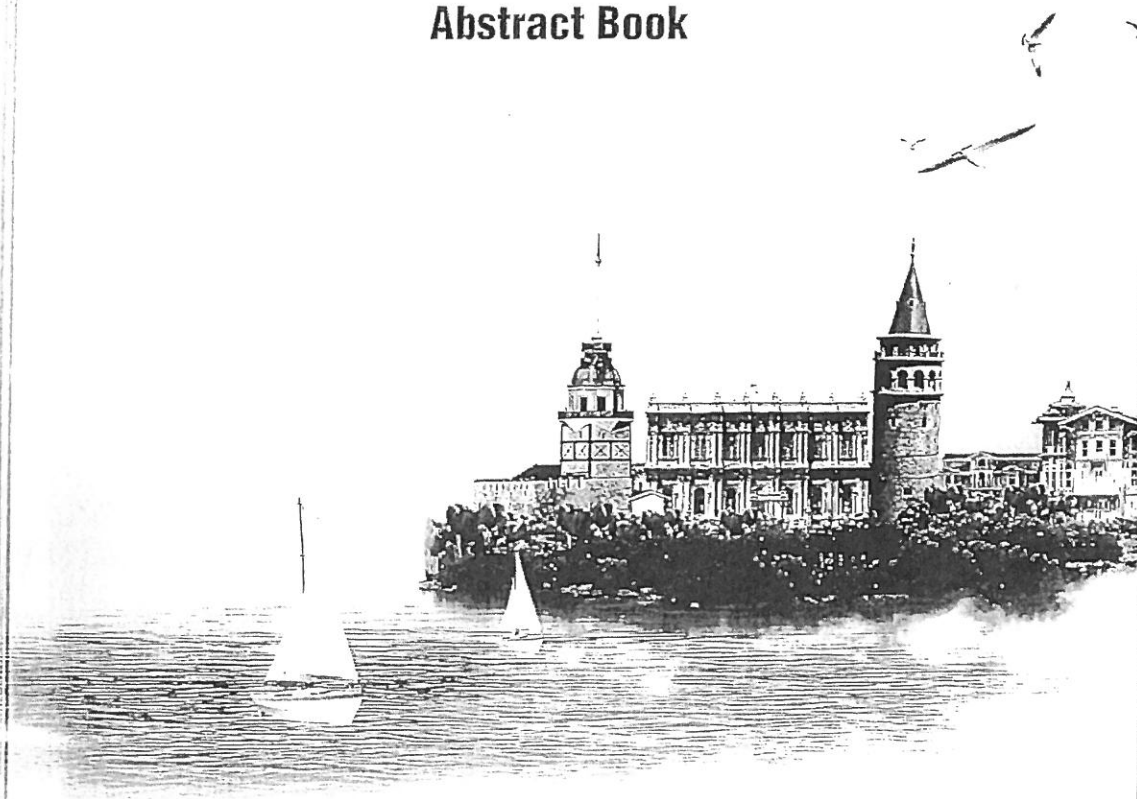


23rd INTERNATIONAL ICFMH SYMPOSIUM **FoodMicro 2012**



Global Issues In Food Microbiology

Abstract Book



FoodMicro

3-7 SEPTEMBER 2012 ISTANBUL



Foodborne pathogens

P-74

Tolerance of dairy-related *Listeria monocytogenes* strains to lactic acid stress

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Lactic acid is found in high concentrations in cheese due to formation by lactic acid bacteria. It has an inhibiting effect of the growth on bacteria and in particular the *Listeria monocytogenes*. *L. monocytogenes* can cause listeriosis in risk groups, such as pregnant women, neonates, older and immunocompromised people and listeriosis has a high mortality rate i.e. up to 20-30%. *L. monocytogenes* may be present in dairy products, ready-to-eat meat products and seafood. Some of the strains of *L. monocytogenes* may be better in adapting to higher concentrations of lactic acid than others. However, the strain depended tolerance towards lactic acid has never been thoroughly investigated of dairy-related strains of *L. monocytogenes*. The aim of the present study was therefore to investigate which effects different concentrations of lactic acid have on growth and gene expression of different strains of *L. monocytogenes*. Six different dairy-related *L. monocytogenes* strains were grown with 0 mM, 10 mM, 15 mM and 20 mM lactic acid in BHI broth at 37°C. The growth rate ($[mic]_{max}$) and lag time ($[lbd]$) was calculated using a mathematical growth model with linear regression of the absorbance detection times of 10-folds serially diluted cultures. With increasing concentration of lactic acid we observed a larger variation in the growth rate. The lag time of the six strains was significantly increased at 20 mM compared to 0 mM and the differences between the strains were more distinct. Two strains (15675 and 51779) originally isolated from cheese and with distinct differences in lactic acid tolerance were selected for further investigation by gene expression studies. Results on gene expression of the two strains investigated by quantitative real time polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR) will be presented. The study has given us increased knowledge on *L. monocytogenes* strain related differences in lactic acid tolerance. This will lead to further understanding on how the virulence potential of *L. monocytogenes* strains could vary within different strains - an important aspect to consider when discussing food safety.

Foodborne pathogens

P-75

Virulence genes in raw milk

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enteropathogenic *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis*) are most numerous reported zoonotic pathogens. Y. enterocolitica 4/O:3 and 2-5 are known pathogens due to the presence of virulence genes. However, biotyping is not sufficient for identification. In this study we investigated 11 Finnish raw milk samples using pyrazinamide production, and salicin, xylose fermentation (PCR) based on SY1 and hlyE virulence genes located on plasmid. Most of the Y. enterocolitica isolates were negative for these genes. The remaining four isolates were negative for hlyE and ystA. The hlyE gene was present in 23 isolates (68%). The other isolates were both ystB- and ystA-positive, others lacked all virulence genes. Raw milk is an emerging food trend. As temperatures, its presence in raw milk is considered to be apathogenic. Isolates from raw milk with Y. enterocolitica strains.